

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

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a medical implant including a porous outer portion; and
a dried, lubricious when wet, in vivo absorbable coating covering the
porous outer portion.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coating includes a hydrogel.

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3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the coating consists essentially of a hydrogel.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the coating is about 1 millimeter

15 thick.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coating is about 1 millimeter thick.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coating fills the porous outer portion.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coating includes a bioactive agent.
8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the porous outer portion includes a plurality of sintered metallic particles.
9. A method for finishing a medical implant, the method comprising the steps of:
 - forming a porous outer portion on the implant;
 - covering the porous outer portion with a lubricious when wet, in vivo absorbable coating; and
 - drying the coating.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the drying step includes heating the coating.
11. The method of claim 9, wherein the covering step includes applying the coating to a thickness of about 1 millimeter.

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12. The method of claim 9, further including the step of impregnating the coating with a bioactive agent.

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